

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The pending claims and new claims are as follows:

AB  
12/02/03  
Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

25 24. ✓ (New) An implant comprising:  
a body with first and second ends and a plurality of through-holes  
extending between the ends, a cortical end cap disposed on each end comprising receiving  
regions therein, and a plurality of cortical struts;  
wherein each cortical strut is disposed in one of the through holes and  
mates in one of the receiving regions of each cap.

26 25. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the receiving regions  
comprise a through hole.

27 26. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 25, wherein the cortical strut received in  
the through hole of the cap is press-fit therein.

28 27. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the receiving regions  
comprise a recess.

29 28. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the implant comprises  
demineralized bone.

30 29. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the implant comprises  
partially demineralized bone.

31 30. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the body comprises  
osteoconductive material. ~~osteoconductive material~~ cancellous bone.

32 31. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the body comprises  
cancellous bone.

33 32. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the body comprises cancellous bone and the receiving regions comprise a recess.

34 33. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the struts are disposed generally parallel to each other.

35 34. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the struts are cylindrical.

36 35. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the struts have a triangular cross-section.  
*see Fig. 24*

37 36. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the struts have a rectangular cross-section.  
*see Fig. 25*

38 37. ✓ (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the body is cylindrical.  
*see Fig. 10*

39 38. (New) The implant of claim 24, wherein the end caps are configured and dimensioned to distribute loading on the implant.  
*The whole strucl. is capable of distributing forces.*